

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of a pile of torn white paper scraps. These scraps are scattered across the frame, with various words and phrases visible, including 'all over town', 'in a', 'perfect', 'calm ach', and 'ound'. The text is in a dark red, serif font, centered on the slide.

The Writing Process

Prewrite

“Of a good beginning
cometh a good end.”

– John Heywood



What Does the Assignment Say?

- Read carefully.
- Highlight key terms.
- Ask questions.

What Do You Want to Say?

- Use what you know.
- Choose a topic of interest.

Topic vs. Thesis

Topic

What you are writing about

Frank L. Baum's use of political symbolism in *The Wizard of Oz*

Thesis

Your claim, argument, or recommendation

Baum's use of a yellow brick road can be viewed as commentary on the gold standard debate, a heated political issue at the end of the 19th century.

Listing

1. Write down every idea you have.
2. Stuck? Put on a timer.
3. Look for patterns of thoughts.
4. Group material left over in categories.
5. Elaborate.



Clustering

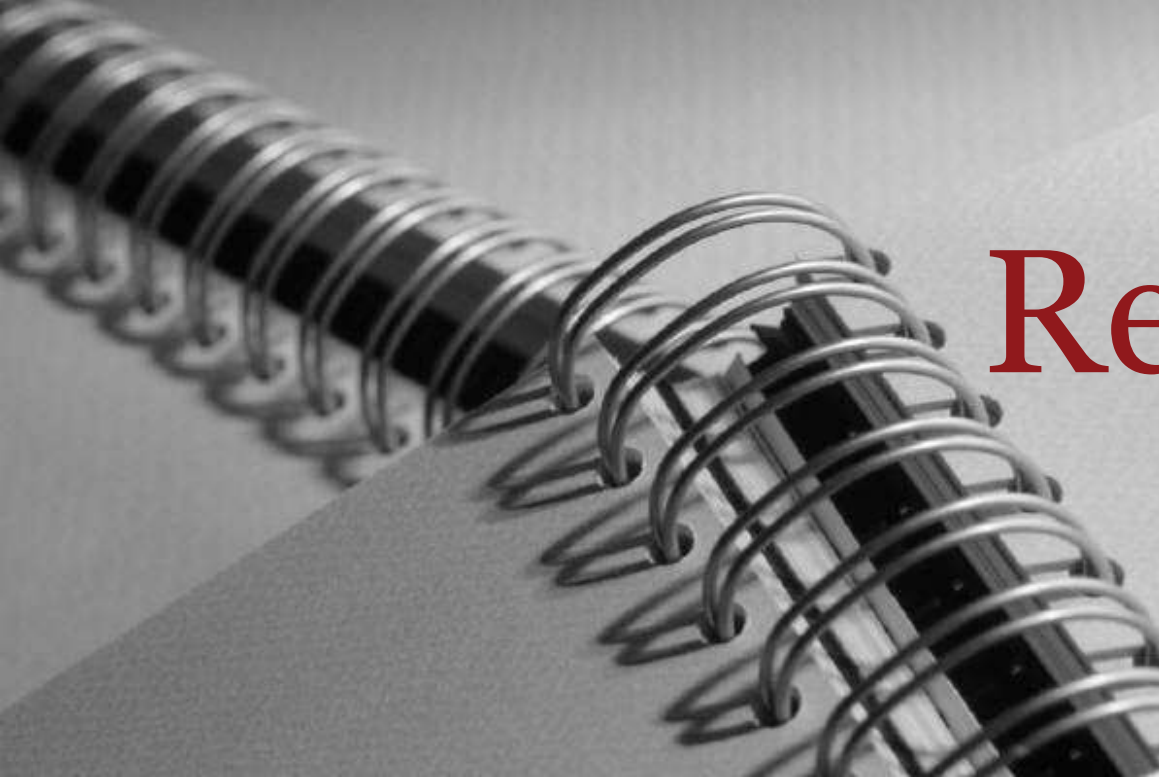
1. Start with the middle circle and write a topic.
2. Write down random ideas. Use lines to connect these ideas.
3. See if there is one “cluster” of ideas and start from there.



Freewriting

1. Write quickly without stopping, 5-10 minutes.
2. Can't think of anything? Write "I'm stuck, I can't think of anything!"—you will at least be moving your pen.
3. Keep writing.
4. Read what you did.





Recording

Keep a notebook at all times—you never know when ideas will come to you.

Researching



Library Databases

There are thousands of academic articles located here.

TAMU Libraries

Has an extensive collection of books, newspaper articles, magazines, and journals

Instructors

Can help change a topic into a thesis.

Library Services



Subject Librarians

The Evans Library has a librarian for every major at Texas A&M

AskUs Services

Ask questions about research, request an appointment with a subject librarian, find help with library services

Research Tips

Take careful notes.
Keep track of all of your sources.

Avoid plagiarizing.
Make a distinction
between direct quotes
and paraphrased
information in your
notes.



The First Draft



I never know what I think about
something until I read what I've
written on it.

— William Faulkner

Organization

Decide on length and organization based on the assignment's purpose, audience, and thesis.

Use an outline, list, or a rough draft to begin.

- I. Introduction
 - a. Thesis: In *The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton creates an anti-hero with the character of Dally and argues that there is honor among the lawless.
- II. Paragraph I-The Anti-Hero
 - a. Define the phrase
 - b. Other anti-heroes
 - i. Stephen Daedalus, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce
 - ii. Jay Gatsby, *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - iii. Severus Snape, *The Harry Potter* series, J.K. Rowling
- III. Paragraph II – Daily Winston
 - a. Define delinquent youth
 - b. Once admitted to a crime he didn't commit so that Two-Bit did not have to go to jail
 - c. Saved Johnny from the fire
- IV. Paragraph III – The place of honor among the Greasers
 - a. Johnny's impression of the Confederate Soldiers
 - i. Honor Code
 - b. Greasers loyalty
 - i. Different group of greasers at the rumble
 - ii. Find more examples from the novel
- V. Conclusion

Introduction

- ✓ Captures your audience's interest
- ✓ Provides background on your subject
- ✓ States your thesis





Conclusion

- ✓ Restates your argument
- ✓ Recommends a solution or states why your argument matters

Revise

“The first draft reveals the art; revision reveals the artist.”

—Michael Lee



Another Pair of Eyes

Who can give you feedback?

- Your instructor or TA
- A friend or classmate
- A relative

